

el Esalitor

"El Respeto al Derecho
Ajeno es la Paz"
Lic Benito Juarez

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Lubbock, TX USA

Groups Oppose Elimination of TRIO Programs

Six prominent educationally oriented groups including LULAC, ASPIRA, the American Federation of Teachers, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities and the National Education Association joined together this week to oppose the proposed elimination of the TRIO programs that "have prepared students for college since their inception in 1965."

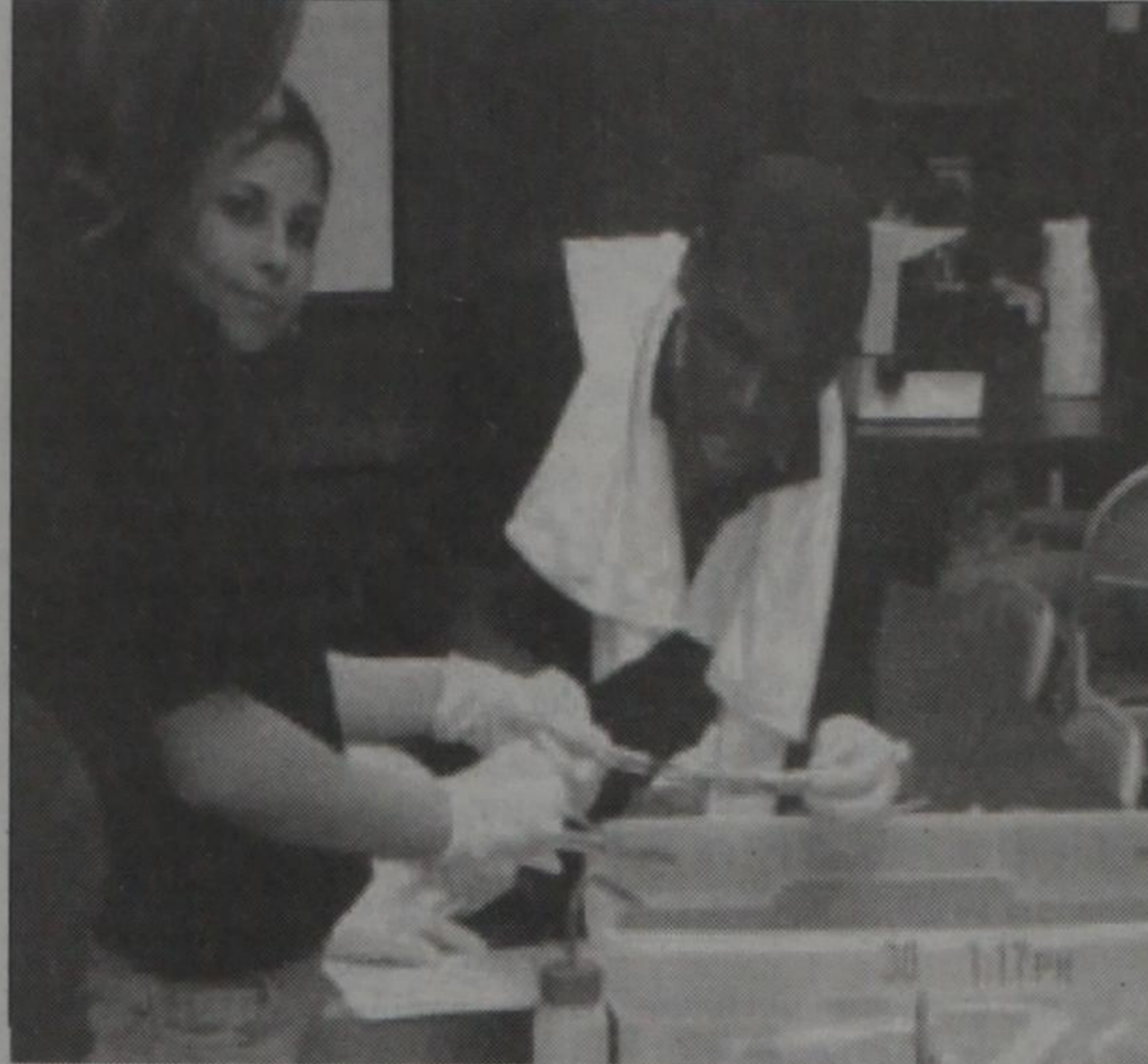
In a press release the groups said that the elimination of funds for the two important TRIO programs, Talent Search and Upward Bound, would significantly harm and increase the likelihood of college access, enrollment and graduation for many minority and low-income students.

Both programs currently have local programs in Lubbock and operate through the LEARN Educational Services Programs and Texas Tech University

Nationally, Talent Search and Upward Bound serve a total of about 455,000 middle and high school students and veterans. "These students would be left without these critical services if the Talent Search and Upward Bound programs were cut," the groups said.

Forty-five institutions receive grants to provide veterans, from the Vietnam War to the war in Iraq with counseling and financial aid services for post-secondary education. Cutting the Veteran's Upward Bound Program, would impact more than 5,000.

The groups claim that for the Hispanic Community, "elimination of these programs would be especially devastating. Hispanic students have experienced the largest gains from participation in the TRIO programs in several subjects such as Math and English."



El nuevo proposito de el Presidente Bush pide que los programas Upward Bound y Talent Search sean eliminados en el proximo año. En este foto algunos de los estudiantes de Upward Bound que seran unos de los afectados si es aprobado el nuevo proposito.

Advocates Split as Bush Prepares to Tackle Immigration Reform

By Sonia Meléndez

Following his State of the Union address to open his second term, President George W. Bush received mixed reviews by Latino leaders on the agendas he outlined on immigration reform and privatization of Social Security.

"It is time for an immigration policy that permits temporary guest workers to fill jobs Americans will not take, that rejects amnesty, that tells us who is entering and leaving our country, and that closes the border to drug dealers and terrorists," Bush affirmed in his speech to a joint session of Congress Feb. 2.

Immigration reform was among the first issues the president chose to give priority in public discourse since his inauguration last month.

Angela Kelley, deputy director at the National Immigration Forum, concedes that the fact that the president talked about reform shows his commitment to take on the issue.

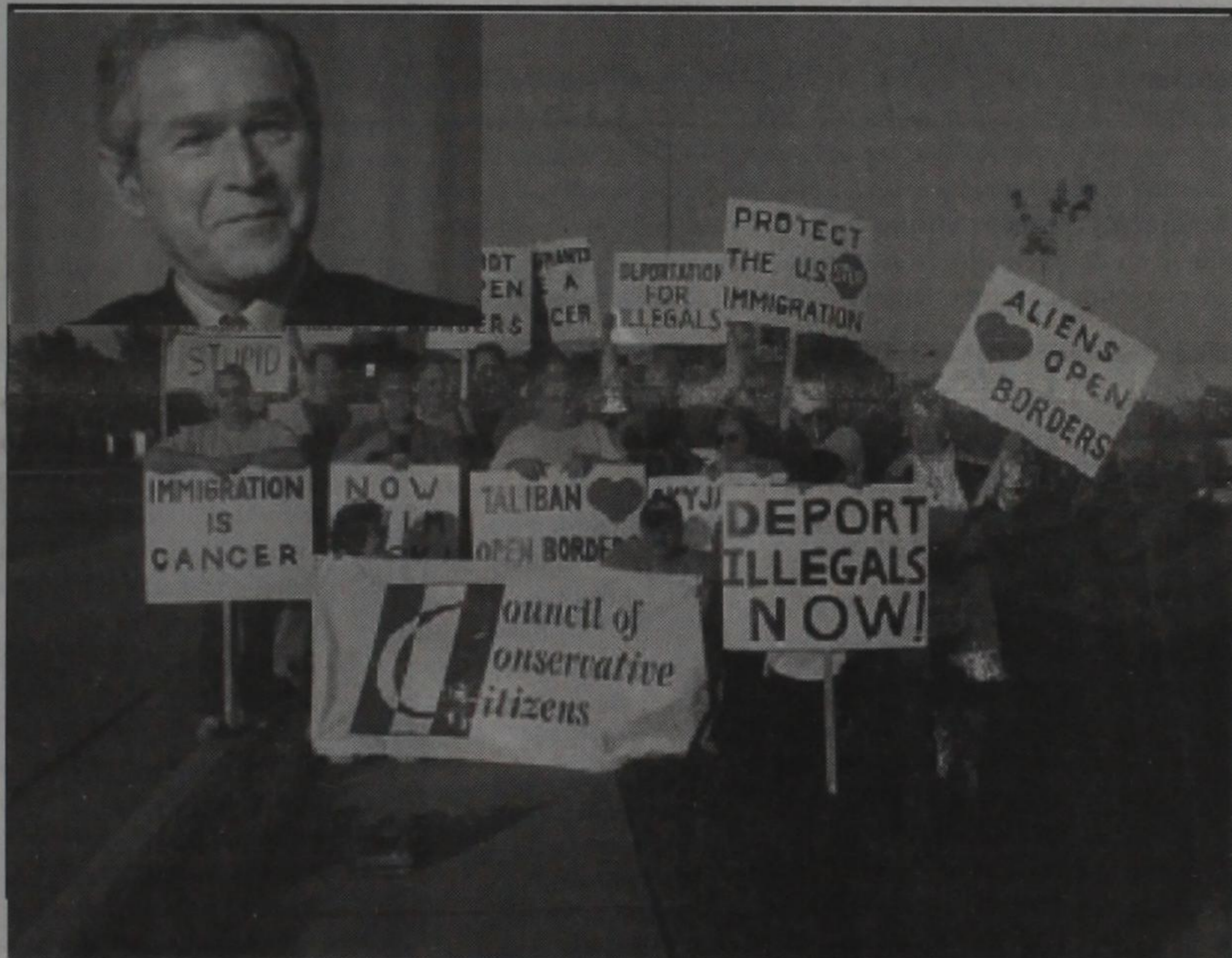
However, she cautions, "It is a long way to go from the rhetoric of the speech to the reality of a new immigration system."

Bush is certain to face strong opposition to his immigration proposal from both sides of the aisle. Nonetheless, he promises to tackle an issue he chose to leave unaddressed in his first term.

To be successful, his plan must "strike the right balance between security and trying to maintain an immigration policy that's welcoming of new immigrants who are coming here to work and make a better life for themselves," says Mario López, executive director of the Congressional Hispanic Conference, a caucus that includes the half-dozen GOP voting members in the House of Representatives who are of Cuban, Mexican or Portuguese heritage.

U.S. Rep. Hilda Solís (D-Calif.) questions why the president did not outline a more comprehensive immigration plan for the eight to 10 million undocumented immigrants currently residing in this country.

"Why aren't we legalizing people who are already here, people who have paid their way, paid taxes, have no criminal background and want to be a part of our society?" she asks.



The Immigration Forum's Kelley predicts one of Bush's obstacles will be "trying to knit together the alliance that will be needed to pass a bill through both chambers of Congress."

The issue of Social Security dominated more than half of the portion of Bush's speech that dealt with his domestic agenda. Its reform is another controversial issue that splits along party lines.

Bush proposed, as expected, a privatization of the nation's Social Security system that would allow younger workers to invest a portion of their retirement fund in private accounts.

"The system has serious problems that will grow worse with time," he said.

Bob Menéndez (D-N.J.), chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, sees privatization as a huge blow for all seniors. "This will disproportionately affect Latino seniors because over 33% of them would fall under the poverty level as result of the privatization scheme," he claims

The CHC's López cautions that before jumping to any conclusions more research on the Social Security reform has to be done. "The rate of return for Hispanics as a demographic

group is significantly lower than the rate for whites," he maintains. "Anything that is going to allow people to build a nest that the government can't take away and that they can pass on to their children is going to be a good for all Americans."

To gain support on his plan to overhaul Social Security, Bush launched a tour this month where he will visit several states.

(Sonia Meléndez is editor of the newsweekly Hispanic Link Weekly Report in Washington, D.C. She may be reached by e-mail at soniam(at)hispaniclink.org)

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Grupos Se Dividen

Bush Se Prepara Para Enfrentar la Inmigración

Sonia Meléndez

A raíz del mensaje sobre el estado de la Unión que ofreció para inaugurar su segundo término, el presidente George W. Bush recibió críticas mixtas de parte de los líderes latinos en relación a las agendas que delineó en torno a las reformas a la inmigración y a la privatización del Seguro Social.

"Es hora de que se dé una política migratoria que permita a los trabajadores extranjeros temporales desempeñar trabajos que los estadounidenses se niegan a realizar, que rechace la amnistía, que nos permita saber quién entra o sale de nuestro país y que cierre las fronteras a vendedores de drogas y terroristas", afirmó Bush en su alocución a la sesión conjunta del Congreso el 2 de febrero.

La reforma migratoria ha ocupado un lugar prioritario en el discurso público del presidente desde su inauguración el mes pasado.

Angela Kelley, subdirectora del Foro Nacional de Inmigración, admite que el hecho de que el presidente hablara sobre la

reforma demuestra su compromiso a enfrentar el asunto. Sin embargo, advierte que, "Existe un trecho muy largo entre la retórica de lo que se dice y la realidad de un nuevo sistema de inmigración".

Sin lugar a dudas, Bush enfrentará fuerte oposición de ambos bandos a su propuesta de inmigración. No obstante, promete atender el asunto que descartó considerar durante su primer término.

Para tener éxito, su plan deberá "alcanzar el perfecto equilibrio entre la seguridad y el esfuerzo por mantener una política de inmigración que acoja a los nuevos inmigrantes que vienen a trabajar y a mejorar sus condiciones de vida", afirma

Mario López, director ejecutivo de la Conferencia Congresional Hispana, (CHC por sus siglas en inglés), un caucus que incluye a los seis miembros republicanos con derecho al voto en la Cámara de Representantes, de origen cubano, mexicano o portugués... La representante estadounidense Hilda Solís (demócrata por California) se pregunta por qué el presidente no esbozó un plan de inmigración más abarcador que incluyera a los 8 a 10 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados que residen actualmente en este país.

"¿Por qué no les concedemos estatus legal a las personas que ya se encuentran aquí, que han pagado su pasaje para llegar hasta aquí, que pagan impuestos, que

no tienen antecedentes penales y que quieren formar parte de nuestra sociedad?", pregunta.

Kelley, del Foro de Inmigración, augura que uno de los obstáculos que Bush enfrentará será "tratar de forjar las alianzas necesarias para lograr la aprobación de la medida en ambas cámaras del Congreso".

El tema del Seguro Social ocupó más de la mitad de la porción dedicada a la agenda doméstica del discurso de Bush. Su reforma constituye otro asunto controvertido que va más allá de las líneas de partido.

(Continúa en la página 5)

Léa El Editor Primero

Comentarios

by Bidal Agüero

When President Bush announced his budget cuts there was no doubt that the headlines in West Texas would highlight the farm cuts but little attention has been given to the proposed cuts that will severely affect the West Texas poor and economically disadvantaged.

Newspapers throughout the nation have called Bush's cuts cruel and unfair. Programs benefiting low-income citizens, like community development and health care, are destined to bear close to half of the cuts even though they accounted for less than 10 percent of the spending increases during the first Bush term. Some of the cruelest cuts would affect hundreds of thousands of working poor people who rely on child-care assistance and food stamps.

There is no doubt in most people minds that the proposed farm cuts will, for the most part, survive Congress and it will be the programs with the least political clout and those affecting the poor that will suffer the consequences.

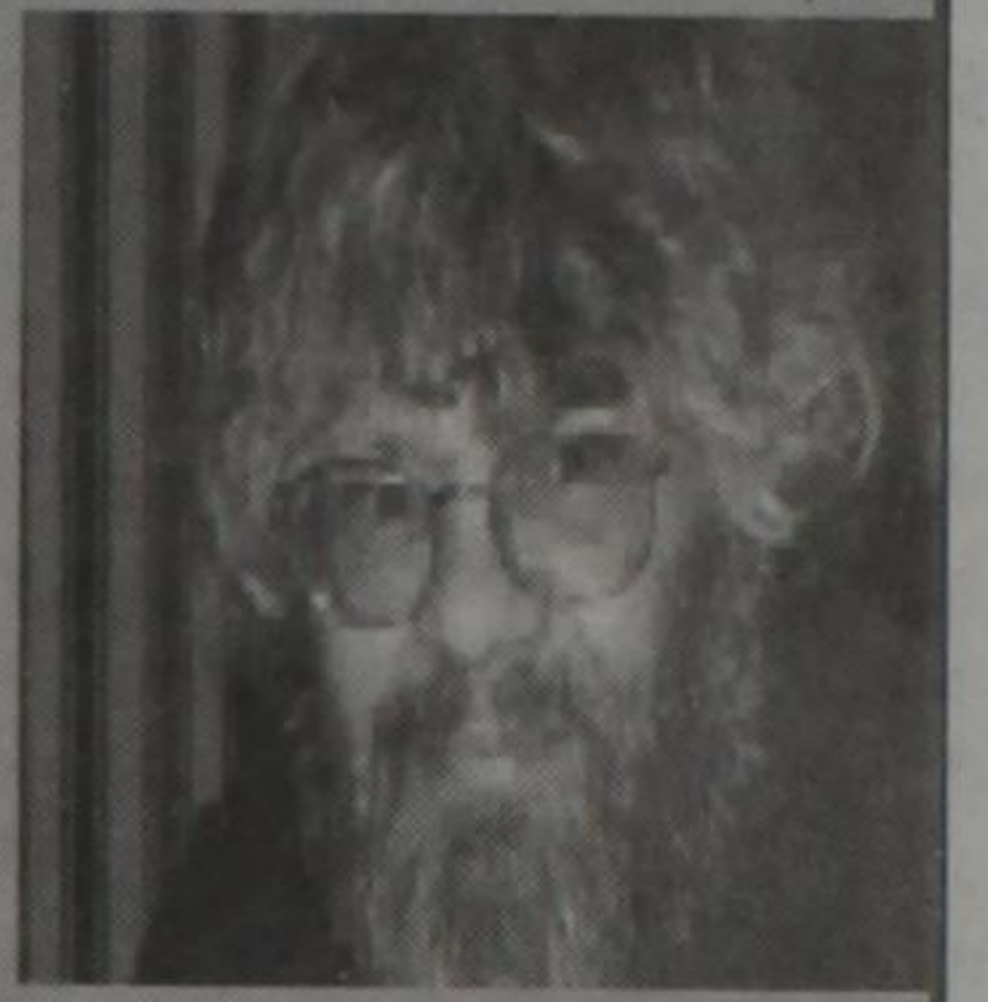
The budget proposes food stamp cuts that will eliminate benefits for approximately 300,000 people primarily in low-income working families and a five-year freeze on child care funding that, according to tables in the Administration's budget, will result in cutting the number of low-income children receiving child care assistance by 300,000 in 2009. The budget also proposes to reduce Medicaid funding by at least \$45 billion over 10 years; such a proposal would almost certainly push hard-pressed states to eliminate coverage for a substantial number of low-income people, increasing the ranks of the uninsured and the underinsured.

There is no doubt that our congressman Randy Naugerbauer will immediately jump on the bandwagon to deter the lowering of subsidies to farmer but the question in our minds is will he lift a hand to help those who really need the help.

Who really pays taxes in Texas. Our City fathers are currently being praised in Austin for their efforts in working for taxpayers it would be interesting if they read the document on page 4 what their reactions would be.

It would also be interesting to see what they would say if some of our readers would bring it to their attention and ask them to work for the real taxpayers in Lubbock.

Continually we have seen that our City Fathers have worked to lower property taxes and their efforts to impose higher sales taxes have affect the poor in Lubbock to the point of desperation. Last year we elected two new councilperson to the City Council. As we consider ways of funding education and changing the way that property taxes are calculated it will be interesting to see if they will look out for their constituents or go along with the good-ole-boy concepts that have continually kept the poor poor and the rich rich in Lub-



In Education, Poetry Shows the Way

By Víctor Landa

Mathematicians say that numbers are like poetry. That numbers have rhythm, harmony and beauty. I guess that it must be so.

Numbers have always seemed a mystery to me personally. Many poets say that poems are mysteries, and, in some way, I arrive at the same conclusion: numbers are similar to poetry.

But frequently, numbers tell stories. For example, in the state of Texas, only 50% of Hispanic students graduate from high school; by the year 2025, 25% of the students of the state will be Hispanics; children whose parents are directly involved in their education are more likely to succeed; throughout the nation, 90% of the parents who are members of their schools' parents associations are white.

Recently, the national directorate of the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) initiated a movement to include more Hispanics in its group, an appropriate gesture. I believe it is a positive step and a good opportunity to counter the false notion that Hispanics are not interested in their children's education.

My experience as a Hispanic has taught me that we care very much about the education of our children, and that we want to learn English and that our children learn it very well.

Both parties show goodwill but there is also hard work before us. Hispanics should find the way to participate more in their children's schools. White parents, on the other hand, should be more open to the Hispanic culture.

The only obstacle is lack of imagination.

There are many divisions in our communities and our cultures. The economy divides us; education divides us; and in many cases, language and culture divide us.

But for the future, what joins us together is harvested at the schools, the place where we can find common ground. As Hispanics, we benefit if our children receive a good education, if they study at the best schools and have the best options.

The rest of the nation also benefits if Hispanics receive a good education.

Soon Hispanics will become the foundation of industry, commerce and the service sector. We will be a majority in factories and businesses and we will hold positions of leadership in the most important institutions of the nation. It is

inevitable.

A good education for a better future benefits all of us. And the groundwork to ensure that future is the imagination. If we can imagine a better future for our children, it will be easier to take the necessary steps to make that dream come true.

One of the first steps is to become more involved in the education of our children, to visit their schools, to get to know the teachers and the principal, to ask questions, to reach out to them.

The poem of numbers presents us with a reality and the poetry of imagination shows us the way.

(Víctor Landa, of San Antonio, Texas, is a contributing columnist with Hispanic Link News Service. He may be contacted by e-mail at: vlanda@sbcglobal.net)

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Attorney General Alberto Gonzales

Abel Cruz

It was as historic a moment as anybody who follows American history could have ever witnessed. For the first time in the history of this country, an American of Mexican descent was sworn in to be Attorney General of the United States.

Since Edmund Randolph was appointed by George Washington as the nation's first attorney general in 1789, there have been 79 Attorney General's that served this country as the "people's lawyer" in all judicial proceedings involving the United States.

On February 3, 2005, Alberto Gonzales became the 80th person confirmed by the US Senate to serve as the head of the Department of Justice, becoming the chief litigator for this country. As Hispanics, and particularly Mexican Americans, we should all share a sense of pride that after 216 years, the son of a migrant worker from Texas has risen through the ranks to lead one of the top 3 presidential cabinet positions. As American citizens, we may want to withhold judgment until Mr. Gonzales proves that he will be much more than a "yes man" to the President.

As the son of a former migrant worker and one of seven children, Mr. Gonzales should know full well just how difficult it can be in life when one is judged by the color of their skin. Growing up in Texas, I'm sure Mr. Gonzales experienced his share of prejudice and fought hard to overcome the institutional racism that is still too prevalent in this country. For that reason alone, Mr. Gonzales' achievements should have our admiration and respect. On the other hand, as American citizens, we need to be vigilant and make sure that the country's chief law enforcement officer does not forget where he came from when addressing issues such as prisoner torture and abuse, immigration issues, and civil rights and justice.

I made it a point to watch the confirmation hearings on C-SPAN and was disappointed by Mr. Gonzales' evasiveness when it came to questions surrounding the legal advice he gave to the President on the treatment of prisoners as it related to the "war on terror". In an exchange with Senator Ted Kennedy during his confirmation hearings, Mr. Gonzales never gave a complete answer to the question of whether prisoner torture is legal and why his advice to the President (as former White House legal counsel) seemed to give the green light to treat prisoner's captured in Iraq in a torturous and abusive manner. Rather, Mr. Gonzales kept referring to the fact that a memo that he had commissioned, that seemed to condone the "harsh" treatment of prisoners, had been repudiated by the White House, and was enough to offset his error in advising the President that the way prisoner's are treated depends on what war you are fighting. It was clearly a case of having told the President what he wanted to hear, and being less than forthright during his confirmation hearings.

And therein lays the scary part of Mr. Gonzales' confirmation. Too often, we are all guilty about saying the right things, and telling "el patron" what we think they want to hear. It's prevalent in politics and it's a tactic that is too often employed by people who are afraid of not getting ahead if they speak their mind. Too often we forget our convictions and say all the right things or push the right buttons. As I watched the Senate hearings, I couldn't help but feel that Mr. Gonzales was telling the senator's what they wanted to hear instead of what his upbringing had taught him. And that is that as a person from a diverse and poor background, his decisions would be made after much thought and consideration for how they would affect the less fortunate in society.

Mr. Gonzales' qualifications are unquestionable. After graduating from Rice University and Harvard Law School, he became a partner in a prominent Houston law firm. In 1995, then Texas Governor George Bush named him general counsel. Later, he was appointed Texas Secretary of State by Bush and then served as a judge on the Texas State Supreme Court. In 2001, President Bush appointed him White House counsel.

Mr. Gonzales has the necessary education and experience to be one of the best Attorney General's that this country has ever seen.

But, only if he never forgets where he came from.
(c)acruz2005 - Contact Abel Cruz at acruzisc@aol.com

En Educación, la Poesía Indica el Camino

By Víctor Landa

Los matemáticos dicen que los números son como la poesía. Dicen que tienen ritmo, concordancia, y belleza. Supongo que así es. En lo personal los números siempre me han parecido un misterio. Muchos poetas dicen que los poemas son misterios, así que de alguna manera llego a la misma conclusión; los números son como la poesía.

Pero muchas veces los números cuentan historias. Por ejemplo: En el estado de Texas solo el 50% de los estudiantes latinos se gradúan de secundaria; para el año 2025 el 25% de los estudiantes del estado serán latinos; los niños cuyos padres están directamente involucrados en su educación suelen tener más éxito; a través del país el 90% de los padres que son miembros de la asociación de padres de familia de sus escuelas son anglosajones. Recientemente la directiva

nacional de la asociación de padres de familia (conocida por sus siglas en inglés PTA) lanzó una iniciativa para incluir más latinos en su grupo, lo que me parece un buen gesto de su parte. Me parece un paso positivo y una buena oportunidad para romper, de una vez por todas, la el estereotipo que tienen los latinos de no interesarse por la educación de sus hijos.

En mi experiencia me ha dado cuenta de dos cosas: que los latinos nos interesamos muchísimo por la educación de nuestros hijos y que, además, queremos aprender y que nuestros hijos aprendan bien el inglés.

Hay buena voluntad de ambos lados, pero hay también trabajo por delante. Los latinos deben de encontrar la manera de ser más activos en las escuelas de sus hijos y los anglosajones, por su parte, deben abrir las puertas a la cultura latina. Lo único que obstruye el camino es la falta de imaginación. Hay muchas divisiones entre

nuestras comunidades y nuestras culturas. Nos divide la economía, nos divide la educación, nos divide en muchos casos el idioma y la cultura.

Pero lo que nos une, el futuro, se cosecha en las escuelas, y es ahí donde podemos encontrar terreno común. A los latinos nos conviene que nuestros hijos sean bien educados, que tengan las mejores escuelas y las mejores opciones.

A los anglosajones, y al resto del estado y del país, también les conviene que los latinos sean bien educados.

Pronto seremos los latinos quienes formaremos el cimiento de la industria, del comercio, y del sector de servicio. Seremos la mayoría de los trabajadores en las fábricas y de los comercios, y tendremos también nuestro lugar en el liderazgo de las instituciones más importantes

del país. Es inevitable.

La buena educación para un mejor futuro nos conviene a todos. Y el terreno donde nos encontramos para asegurar ese futuro empieza en la imaginación. Si logramos imaginar un mejor futuro para nuestros hijos es fácil tomar los pasos debidos para convertir el sueño en realidad.

El primero de esos pasos es involucramos más en la escuela de los hijos: estar presentes, visitar con los maestros, conocer al director o la directora, preguntar, acercarnos.

El poema de los números nos propone una realidad, y la poesía de la imaginación nos indica el camino.

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Bush's Budget: The Bad Math Is No Secret

By David Corn

If it's budget time, it must be disinformation time. That's how it goes in the Bush II era. George W. Bush released a budget today that he claims is responsible, honest, and designed to cut the \$400 billion-plus deficit in half by 2009. Not so. By now, you probably have heard the obvious criticisms. The budget does not include the \$80 billion Bush is asking for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. (And that probably won't cover the full tab.) It doesn't account for the \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion that Bush needs to pay for the private investment accounts he wants to carve out of Social Security. It also doesn't recognize that several hundred billion dollars will disappear from the revenue stream when the government rejiggers the alternative minimum tax--which it must--to prevent this tax (written to apply to corporations that make creative use of loopholes) from hitting middle-class individual tax filers.

There are few secrets about Bush's budgetary shenanigans. While the military gets a hefty

boost, housing, education and environmental protection gets hammered. Every advocacy group concerned with federal spending was issuing press releases today. Folks on Capitol Hill were doing the same. Senator Jim Jeffords, the Republican-turned-independent from Vermont, put out a short list of the worst of Bush's proposed cuts. Here it is:

- * Environment. Cuts the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) budget by 5.6 percent from \$8.02 billion to \$7.57 billion, culminating in an almost 10 percent cut over two years. Most cuts come in efforts to maintain and improve the nation's clean water infrastructure.

- * Veterans. More than doubles the co-payment charged to many veterans for prescription drugs and would require some to pay a new fee of \$250 a year for the privilege of using the Veterans health care system.

- * Health Care. Cuts Medicaid funding by \$45 billion over 10 years and eliminates 28 health programs, totaling \$1.36 billion. These programs range from rural hospital grants (cuts \$39.5 million) to emergency medical

services for children (cuts \$20 million).

- * Job Training. Cuts federal spending on job training by a half-billion dollars. Federal job training programs, including dislocated-worker training, will be cut by \$200 million. Federal aid to states for job training, including funding to train veterans, will be cut by \$300 million.

- * Amtrak. Eliminates all funding for Amtrak, calling bankruptcy proceedings as the solution for our nation's rail system.

- * Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP). Cuts LIHEAP by over 8 percent, from \$2.2 billion to \$2 billion.

- * Parks. Cuts the National Park Service by 3 percent from \$2.31 billion to \$2.24 billion.

The Bush White House defends its cuts, claiming it is targeting programs that don't work. Could it be that the Bushies are right? That those darn bureaucrats running the clean water programs at the EPA are flushing taxpayer dollars down the drain? Perhaps. But here's the thing: if Bush is not being honest about the macro dimensions of his budget--and he's not--then how can he be trusted on the details? Short answer: he cannot. I am willing to believe waste and unnecessary spending can be found throughout government. Maybe even at the Pentagon. (Gosh, no!) But I am not willing to hand the scalpel to Bush and his lieutenants when they spin numbers and refuse to acknowledge the true budgetary problems that they have caused and overseen.

Dear President Bush:

The Latino organizations signed below write to express our strong opposition to the "REAL ID Act" (H.R. 418), legislation introduced by Representative Sensenbrenner on January 26, 2005 dealing with driver's licenses, asylum, and the border. If enacted, the Sensenbrenner legislation will have a profound, negative impact on Latinos and other immigrant communities. It will not make Americans safer and, in fact, may make us all less safe by driving a wedge between American communities and law enforcement.

As organizations committed to serving the Latino community, we were united in our opposition to the extraneous anti-immigrant provisions in the House version of the intelligence reform bill that passed late last year. These provisions were wisely excluded from the bill that you signed into law in December. However, now we see many of these same immigration provisions being considered by the House again this year. We hope that you will oppose these efforts to marginalize Latino communities and continue to work toward meaningful, comprehensive immigration reforms that truly fix our broken immigration system. We are very heartened by your recent comments regarding the need for comprehensive immigration reform. We look forward to working with you to create important, meaningful, and lasting changes to our immigration system which will benefit American families, workers, and businesses.

Unfortunately, bills such as the "REAL ID Act" serve to undercut these reform efforts and divide Congress on the issue. We hope that you will demonstrate strong leadership and move forward on immigration reforms rather than allow negative anti-immigrant legislation to set the tone of this debate and embolden those whose proposals are divisive and harmful.

Specifically, we ask you to oppose imposing additional federal immigrant driver's license requirements on the states. Congress already passed driver's license legislation in the "Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004." The law requires the federal government to set federal standards for driver's licenses including standards for documentation required as proof of identity of an applicant; standards for the processing of applications to prevent fraud; standards for information to be included on driver's licenses; and security standards to ensure that licenses are resistant to tampering, alteration, or counterfeiting. These standards are to be set by the Department of Transportation through a negotiated rulemaking process that includes relevant stakeholders such as state elected officials and state motor vehicle departments. This process allows the states to maintain their ability to set eligibility standards, while also recognizing the need to prevent against identity theft and fraud.

Most importantly, a lawful presence requirement will not make us safer; indeed, contrary to what its supporters argue, such a requirement would not have prevented the September 11, 2001 attacks, because the 9/11 hijackers all possessed other valid documents, including passports from their home countries. We strongly believe that, by focusing on driver's license policy as a tool in America's struggle against terror, the proponents of this bill are misleading the American public as to what will advance our security interests. We believe this to be a costly, harmful mistake.

Access to driver's licenses is a priority issue for the Latino community, and the ability to prove one's identity and lawfully operate a motor vehicle is crucial for all Americans. Public safety improves when all

drivers are properly licensed and insured, and national security improves when individuals have valid identification documents.

The "REAL ID Act" also calls for devoting additional resources for building fences along the U.S.-Mexico border. This proposal is inhumane and inefficient and will result in increased suffering, violence, and death along the border. The language is overly broad and would permit any Department of Homeland Security Secretary in the future, at his or her discretion, to build as many military fences as he or she sees fit across the southwestern border. This would not reduce undocumented immigration, but would increase the number of deaths at the border. The existing Triple Fence cost approximately \$3 million per mile to construct. Numerous reports illustrate that this expenditure did not result in a reduction of undocumented migration; it has simply shifted migrants out of the San Diego area to Arizona. Apprehensions in Arizona have skyrocketed over the last decade, as have border deaths. More than 2,000 migrants have died in transit since 1997 according to the government's own statistics. Since the implementation of Operation Gatekeeper and Hold the Line, migrants have been forced to cross the border in more remote and dangerous areas, and have increasingly relied on human smugglers, causing an increase in injury and death as well as criminal activity and violence. Additionally, at a time when we need to build cooperative relationships with our hemispheric partners in order to prevent future terrorist attacks, the symbolism of establishing a fence between ourselves and our neighbors is particularly troublesome.

Finally, the asylum-related provisions of the "REAL ID Act" will prohibit many individuals fleeing persecution from obtaining safe haven in the U.S. This section of the bill is not about preventing terrorists from getting asylum; terrorists are already barred from receiving asylum. This section would allow genuine refugees to be denied asylum if they cannot prove their persecutor's central motive for harming them, or show any inconsistencies between statements made to any U.S. government employees, whether written or oral and whether or not under oath, and their testimony before an immigration judge. These provisions do nothing to make us safer and do great damage to our nation's proud heritage as a place of refuge for those fleeing persecution. Furthermore, the Intelligence Reform Act of 2004 included provisions to further study the asylum process. No more changes should be made until this study is completed and Congress has had time to evaluate current law.

The 9/11 Commissioners, the 9/11 families, security experts, religious organizations, and many others have joined Latino organizations in questioning the effectiveness of these provisions.

Ultimately, comprehensive immigration reform is needed to address the root causes of undocumented immigration, to save lives along the border, and to provide U.S. employers with a legal workforce. In addition, the nation will be safer if we enforce our immigration laws fairly and provide all of our residents with due process of law. We strongly oppose and urge you to oppose the "REAL ID Act."

Sincerely,
League of United Latin American Citizens
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund
National Council of La Raza



Se Establiza la Salud del Papa

El estado del papa Juan Pablo II se estabilizó tras su ingreso en el hospital romano con problemas respiratorios, pero el Pontífice, que padece de influenza, pasará varios días más en la clínica, dijo ayer el Vaticano.

De un extremo a otro de la Cristiandad, desde Polonia hasta las Filipinas, desde México a Francia, los fieles oran por la recuperación del Santo Padre, de 84 años de edad.

Los análisis médicos indicaron que el corazón y la respiración del Papa eran normales, tras descansar varias horas en el hospital, a donde fue llevado la noche del martes en una ambulancia, dijo el vocero papal Joaquín Navarro-Valls.

Por otro lado, el portavoz añadió que Juan Pablo tenía algo de fiebre y pasaría "unos días más" en la Policlínica Gemelli de Roma a fin de continuar allí su tratamiento.

"No hay motivo de alarma", dijo Navarro-Valls y agregó que Juan Pablo II permanecerá hospitalizado "varios días" por las complicaciones de una gripe.

"Los parámetros cardiorespiratorios y metabólicos están en el límite de lo normal. Por lo tanto podemos confirmar el diagnóstico de una laringotraqueitis aguda con episodios laringoespasmódicos, como se anunció [el martes]", afirmó en el primer parte oficial el portavoz del Papa, pero no explicó si eran normales para una persona de la edad del Papa, 84 años, o si quería decir que había superado la crisis del martes.

El Papa "se recupera y nos sentimos optimistas en relación a su salud", declaró por su parte el ministro italiano de Salud, el doctor Girolamo Sirchia, a la salida del hospital romano.

"El informe sobre la salud del Papa corresponde exactamente a las condiciones de salud del Santo Padre. El Pontífice se está recuperando y tanto sus médicos como nosotros nos sentimos optimistas", declaró.

En Roma, en su Polonia natal y en el resto del mundo católico, los fieles oran por la salud del



Santo Padre, cuya hospitalización dominó las primeras planas de los periódicos y de las transmisiones televisivas. El rabino jefe de Roma, Riccaco di Segni, dijo que rezaba por la rápida recuperación del Papa.

"Le deseo buena salud al Santo Padre", dijo María Pasnik, de 46 años, ama de casa del pueblo natal del Papa, Wadowice. "Sé que la salud le ha mejorado y ruego que podamos volverlo a ver u oír".

"Sumémosnos al resto del país y de la Cristiandad con nuestras oraciones por la recuperación del Santo Padre", dijo Ignacio Bunye, portavoz de la presidenta Gloria Macapagal Arroyo de Filipinas, uno de los 129 países que Juan Pablo ha visitado en sus 26 años de pontificado.

El Papa adolece de mal de Parkinson, y el cardenal Javier Lozano Barragán, máximo funcionario de Salud vaticano, dijo al servicio televisivo de The Associated Press que la imposibilidad de mantener la espalda derecha ha afectado los pulmones y el diafragma del Pontífice.

Navarro-Valls insistió empero en que el Papa nunca perdió el conocimiento ni necesitó una

traqueotomía para ayudarlo a respirar. Agregó que Juan Pablo participó desde su lecho del hospital en una misa celebrada en su habitación por su secretario.

Reacción mundial
La noticia sobre la repentina hospitalización del Pontífice, de 84 años, fuertemente debilitado por la enfermedad de Parkinson, suscitó seria preocupación en todo el mundo, en particular en América Latina e inclusive en Cuba, donde se han organizado grupos de oración en algunas iglesias para pedir por la salud de Juan Pablo II.

Numerosos líderes y personalidades de todo el mundo han enviado mensajes de pronta recuperación al Papa, entre ellos del

portavoz del presidente de Estados Unidos, George W. Bush y el primer ministro de Polonia, su país natal, Marek Belka.

Los canales de televisión de un centenar de países instalaron sus antenas parabólicas para transmitir en directo y continuamente toda novedad sobre las condiciones de salud del Papa.

Las medidas de seguridad alrededor del centro médico fueron reforzadas para impedir que cientos de curiosos y peregrinos ingresen al hospital, donde el Papa fue instalado en un apartamento privado.

En la plaza de San Pedro, numerosos católicos, religiosos, ancianos y jóvenes oran por la salud del jefe de la Iglesia Católica.

"Espero que supere esta crisis. Es un gran hombre y oro por él", declaró un jubilado italiano, tras conocer la noticia.

Se trata de la octava hospitalización en el centro de salud romano del Pontífice, quien llama cariñosamente al hospital Gemelli el "Vaticano Tres", después de la Santa Sede y Castelgandolfo, la residencia de verano de los pontífices.

La posibilidad de que el Papa retomara la próxima semana sus actividades no ha sido descartada por las autoridades de la Santa Sede, que no han anulado por ahora la audiencia prevista para el 8 de febrero con la secretaria de Estado estadounidense Condoleezza Rice.

Mientras tanto, el Vaticano sigue las operaciones a ritmo normal, según indicaciones de los funcionarios civiles y eclesiásticos.

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On Valentine's Day, Martinez Family Shares a Legacy of Love

By Elisa A. Martinez

Valentine's Day is supposed to be a special time set aside to celebrate Love.

Love past. Love present. And Love to come.

Love lost and Love won.

Romantic, complex Love and Love simple and uncomplicated.

We also celebrate those who taught us how to Love. Mothers in whose arms we were cradled and nurtured. Fathers whose greatest pleasure was to provide their families with the necessities for a good life. Those special papás we ran out to greet with hugs of joy in the late afternoon when they came home after a long day laboring. I remember my father's hug so well. I remember his rough hands and the smell of his hard work.

SPC Summer Peace Officer Academy

Students planning to attend South Plains College's Basic Peace Officer Summer Academy must pre-register prior to April 4.

The academy is scheduled 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday May 4-Aug. 18 in the SPC Law Enforcement-Petroleum Technology Building, Room 115.

"This course meets educational requirements for those who wish to take the Texas Peace Officer licensing exam," said Larry Nichols, academy coordinator and chairperson of SPC's Professional Services and Energy Department.

The academy will cover all Texas laws and procedural requirements, force options, multiculturalism and human relations, professionalism and ethics, fitness and wellness/stress management, civil process, mechanics of arrest, criminal investigation and firearms.

The 618-hour course is open to persons 21 years or older interested in becoming a Texas peace officer. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, high school graduates or have a GED with 12 hours of college credit and may not have a Class B or higher conviction in the last 10 years.

Approximate costs are \$1532 for in-district students and \$2051 for out-of-district students. Books and supplies cost about \$150. Tuition and fees are payable on the first day of class.

Students eligible for financial aid can apply through the SPC Financial Aid Office. Deadline is March 1.

A non-refundable \$50 application fee is required for a state and federal background check through TCLEOSE.

To schedule an academy entrance test or find out more information, contact the SPC Law Enforcement Office at 806-894-9611, ext. 2291.

We celebrate them even further back. Our grandparents who with great sacrifice and Love left everything material that they possessed in Mexico to enter into a journey of life in a strange country. Their sole intent was a better future for their families.

We also venerate friends and compadres who have allied themselves to us in all our celebrations of life and death.

North of the border February 14th is an all-red day. Red flowers, red boxes of candy, red icing on heart-shaped cakes and red hearts on elaborate cards. Red hearts are everywhere. Be my Valentine. Be Mine. I Love You.

The shame of it all is that this love for Love may last only for this one day.

Because Mexico is so close to the United States, many U.S. cus-

oms and holidays tend to be adopted south of the border. This day is no different. In Mexico it's celebrated as Día de el Amor y la Amistad.

Mexicans combine Love with friendship. The inclusion of friends in any special celebration is very important.

In the extended circle of family and people whom we Love, we embrace many friends who have been a part of the family for years. We don't concentrate on any particular color like red, and Cupid's presence is not de rigueur.

In Mexico they also send cards with special messages and many colored flowers to friends, spouses and sweethearts. The holiday also serves as another good reason to get together with friends and family to enjoy good

food, laughter, music and abrazos.

On this 14th of February, on this Día de el Amor y la Amistad, may we all be recipients of Love and loving memories.

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Camino al Corazón

Los antiguos romanos y griegos lo sabían muy bien... Hay ciertos alimentos que tienen el poder de despertar la libido. de "acondicionarnos" para pasarla bien con la pareja.

¿Mito o realidad? Lo cierto es que al acercarse el Día de los Enamorados o Día de San Valentín muchos hablan de ellos y quieren saber cuáles son los más efectivos para enamorar a ese ser especial.

La chef Diane Brown ha escrito un libro sobre el tema, The Seduction Cookbook. Con la experiencia que ha acumulado al trabajar como chef personal y especializarse en cenas íntimas, además del estudio e investigación de alimentos afrodisíacos. Brown afirma que para llegar al corazón de manera efectiva hay que pasar por el estómago y que algunos alimentos llegan más rápido que otros.

"Claro que es cierto el poder afrodisíaco de algunos alimentos. Son ingredientes que tienen sustancias como el fósforo, el potasio y el zinc, que despiertan la libido", dice Brown. "También hay alimentos como el chile, que al aumentar la temperatura del cuerpo incitan al amor".

La experta en afrodisíacos dice que los alimentos más populares, que no deben faltar en su cena de San Valentín, son: la langosta, el chocolate, el aguacate, el chile picante y todos los mariscos.

"Algunos alimentos son afrodisíacos por las sustancias que contienen y otros por su forma, como el caso del aguacate y los espárragos. También hay otros que lo son por la textura y el efecto que producen en la piel al tocarlos", dice Brown.

Sugerencias

•Diane Brown recomienda preparar cenas sencillas, que no sean complicadas, nada de pasar tres horas en la cocina. "Enfóquese en su pareja".

•Cocine con su enamorado. Es una manera de compartir tiempo junto a su compañero/a y llegar a la intimidad rápidamente.

•En una cena íntima, no se ponga nervioso/a. Sea natural y disfrute del momento.

•Acompañe su cena con un buen vino o champán y no olvide el postre. El chocolate y las frutas tienen un gran poder de seducción.

De interés
Diane Brown y Andri Tschanner, chef ejecutivo del hotel The Fairmont Miramar en Santa Mónica, han preparado un menú especial para el Día de San Valentín, que se estará sirviendo en el restaurante Grille del hotel del 11 al 14 de febrero.

Además, el sábado 12 de febrero Brown dará una demostración de cocina, en la que presentará recetas de su libro. La clase dura hora y media e incluye champán para los asistentes, así como una copia autografiada del libro.

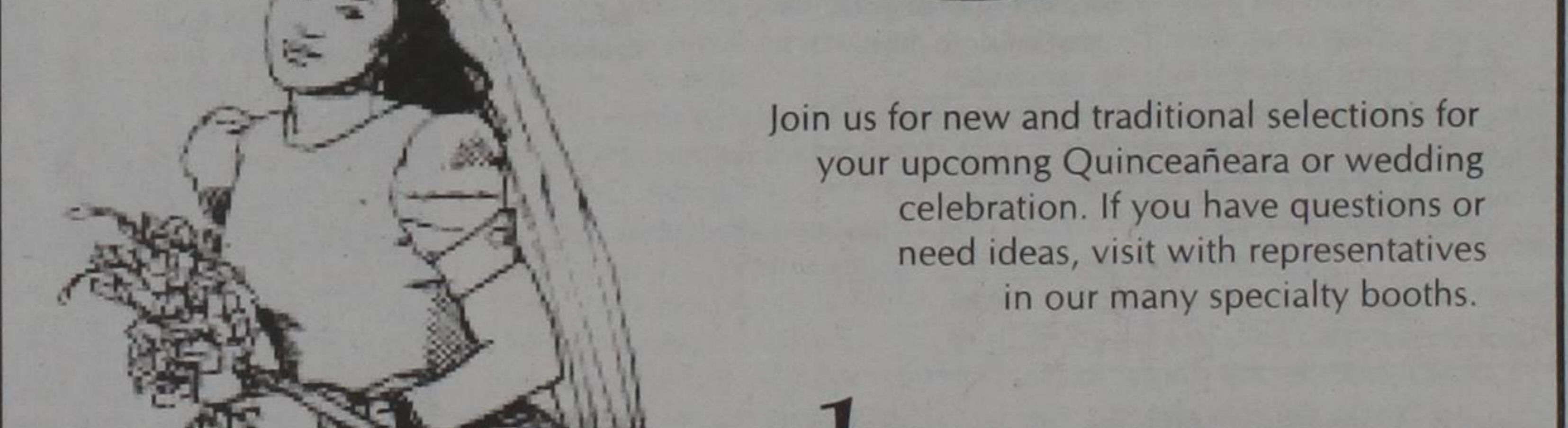
"The Seduction Cookbook"
El nuevo libro de Diane Brown contiene fáciles recetas con ingredientes afrodisíacos, así como técnicas y trucos que funcionan como cupidos en el corazón.

Se incluyen alrededor de 80 platillos diferentes, divididos en aperitivos, platos principales, platos secundarios y postres. También hay una sugerencia de vinos para cada platillo y recetas para el desayuno de la mañana siguiente.

continúa en la página 4

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Tregua en el Medio Oriente

El primer ministro israelí Ariel Sharon y el líder palestino Mahmoud Abas declararon ayer el fin de todo acto de violencia entre sus pueblos, un paso crucial para reanudar el proceso de paz.

"Lo que hemos acordado hoy es simplemente el comienzo de un proceso para acortar las diferencias", dijo Abas tras su primer encuentro directo con Sharon desde que sucedió a Yaser Arafat el mes pasado.

El líder palestino dejó en claro que ambas partes no han tratado aún temas otros fundamentales, entre ellos el control de Jerusalén, y "los asentamientos, la liberación de los prisioneros y el muro" de seguridad entre Israel y Cisjordania que Israel ha levantado.

La cumbre incluso podría llevar a que otros países árabes establezcan relaciones con Israel, dijo el ministro de Relaciones Exteriores israelí Silvan Shalom.

"Esto podría llevar a avances con otros países árabes que quizás envíen también a sus embajadores", dijo Shalom a la televisión.

Sin embargo, los grupos palestinos violentos se distanciaron de la cumbre.

El grupo extremista Hamás objetó de inmediato el plan y dijo que desea escuchar a Abas y ver lo que hará Israel antes de comprometerse a cesar la violencia.

Aun así, la promesa de tregua y el hecho de que Abas y Sharon sonrieran ampliamente mientras se estrechaban las manos fueron un indicio claro del impulso que



ha cobrado el proceso de paz tras la muerte de Arafat en noviembre y la elección de Abas en enero.

Un funcionario israelí, Guideon Meir, dijo que "reino una cordial atmósfera en las conversaciones... con sonrisas y chistes". Como otro indicio de que el diálogo fue fructífero, Egipto y Jordania anunciaron que devolverán sus embajadores a Israel tras una ausencia de cuatro años, posiblemente en los próximos días.

Sharon y Abas salieron del salón de reuniones tras dialogar en privado: Sharon prometió que los militares israelíes dejarán de atacar a los palestinos y Abas que los guerrilleros dejarán de atacar a los israelíes.

"Debemos avanzar con cautela", dijo Sharon. "Esta es una oportunidad muy frágil que los extremistas desearían explotar. Ellos quieren cerrar esa oportunidad para lograr que nuestros pueblos se ahoguen en su propia sangre... Si no actuamos ahora, quizá lo consigamos".

Los funcionarios israelíes dijeron en privado que el cese de sus operaciones militares dependerá de que cesen los ataques palestinos. Aunque no esperan que el liderazgo palestino reprima de inmediato a los guerrilleros, debe hacerlo a largo plazo, agregaron las fuentes.

"A la postre, esos grupos deberán ser desarmados, no hay duda alguna", dijo Meir.

Preguntado si Hamas continuará sus ataques contra Israel, el representante de ese grupo en la capital libanesa, Osama Hamdan, respondió que "nuestra decisión depende de que sea logrado un cambio sustancial (en la oposición israelí) para satisfacer las demandas y condiciones palestinas".

Hamdan agregó que para que la tregua sea fructífera, Israel debe liberar a los prisioneros palestinos y comprometerse sin reservas a "cesar todo tipo de agresión contra el pueblo palestino". Sostuvo que esas condiciones no fueron satisfechas.

El canciller egipcio anunció además que los embajadores jordano y egipcio en Israel regresarán a Tel Aviv en unos pocos días.

Con sus respectivas banderas ondeando a sus espaldas, Sharon y Abas celebraron ayer una cumbre regional en este balneario ubicado en el extremo sur de la península del Sinaí.

Luego, Abas declaró que "hemos acordado cesar toda medida violenta contra palestinos e israelíes, sea donde sea". Sharon formuló un compromiso similar: "hoy, en mi reunión con el presidente Abas, acordamos que los palestinos cesarán todo acto de violencia contra israelíes en todo lugar y, al mismo tiempo, Israel cesará toda actividad militar contra los palestinos en todo lugar".

Abas dijo confiar que las promesas de tregua darán paso a la reanudación de las negociaciones sobre el llamado "status final" de temas como las fronteras, el retorno de los refugiados o la partición de Jerusalén, todos ellos dentro del contexto del plan de paz apodado "hoja de ruta". Sharon dijo esperar además que el acuerdo del martes facilite la adopción de ese plan.

En la cumbre, Abas dijo que ha llegado el momento de que el pueblo palestino recupere su libertad.

Sharon dijo, dirigiéndose a los palestinos: "Les aseguro que pensamos sinceramente respetar sus derechos a vivir independientemente y con dignidad. Dije ya que Israel no desea continuar gobernando y controlar sus destinos".

Poco antes, una fuente palestina informó en Jerusalén, que Sharon invitó a Abas a continuar las conversaciones en su finca del sur de Israel y que el líder palestino aceptó.

El ministro palestino de Relaciones Exteriores, Nabil Shaath, dijo que ese encuentro tendrá lugar pronto. Las conversaciones podrían continuar luego en Ramala, capital de los territorios palestinos.

Poco después, el presidente egipcio Hosni Mubarak dijo que se habían concretado los primeros pasos hacia la reanudación del

proceso de paz. Mubarak, que convocó a ambos líderes como mediadores clave en el proceso, dijo que ambas partes demostraron un enorme deseo de "trabajar juntos verdadera y sinceramente".

"Los desafíos de hoy son extensos y profundos, pero la misión no es imposible. Si la senda es larga, hemos dado hoy el primer paso", dijo Mubarak en un discurso que dijo haber pronunciado en su nombre y en el del rey Abdalá II de Jordania.

Mubarak indicó también que hay esperanzas de que sean iniciadas negociaciones de paz con los sirios y libaneses. Las negociaciones de paz entre Siria e Israel se encuentran congeladas desde el 2000.

"Nuestro objetivo es una paz duradera en el Medio Oriente y, por lo tanto, nuestra actuación será seguida por otras para revivir tanto la iniciativa siria como la libanesa", agregó.

La cumbre, en que también se dio el primer encuentro cara a cara entre Sharon y Mubarak, fue un indicio de cuánto han cambiado las circunstancias diplomáticas en el Medio Oriente desde la muerte de Yaser Arafat, fallecido el mes de noviembre pasado en París, quien había sido marginado por Israel y los Estados Unidos por considerarlo poco más que un líder corrupto e ineficaz e incapaz de superar su adicción a la violencia.



THE POLICY PAGE An Update on State and Federal Action

Center for Public Policy Priorities 900 Lydia Street, Austin, Texas, 78702 PH: 512.320.0222 www.cppp.org
February 9, 2005 Contact: Dick Lavine, lavine@cppp.org No. 226

WHO PAYS TEXAS TAXES?

The Comptroller has just released her biennial study of the fairness of the Texas tax system, Texas Exemptions and Tax Incidence, which demonstrates conclusively that low- and moderate-income Texas families bear a disproportionate share of state and local taxes. Data from the study reveal that raising the state sales tax rate to pay for cuts in school property taxes would increase taxes for 80% of families and benefit only those with the highest incomes.

TAX FAIRNESS

The simplest way to judge the fairness of a tax system is to compare the percentage of income different families pay in taxes. In a state with a fair tax system, families in all income groups would pay a similar percentage of their income in taxes. In Texas, the families with the lowest income pay the highest percentage of their income in taxes; the families with the highest income pay the lowest percentage of their income in taxes. In other words, those who can least afford it pay the most. A system that takes a higher percentage of the income of a lower-income family is called "regressive." Texas has the fifth most regressive state and local tax system of the 50 states.

Avg. Annual Family Income	Taxes Paid	% of Income Paid in Taxes
\$12,100	\$1,720	14.2%
\$31,100	2,550	8.2
\$50,600	3,560	7.0
\$78,100	5,080	6.5
\$177,800	9,090	5.1

The chart above, which is derived from the information in the comptroller's report, shows the average income of families in each income group, the average amount of major state and local taxes paid by families in the income group, and the average percentage of total family income paid in taxes. The comptroller's report divides all households into ten equal groups; this Policy

Tax	Suits Index (listed from least unfair to most unfair)
Natural gas tax	-0.03
School property tax	-0.06
Franchise tax	-0.13
Motor vehicle sales tax	-0.15
Sales tax	-0.18
Gasoline tax	-0.25

There is a significant difference in the degree of regressivity of different taxes. The school property tax is among the fairest tax paid by Texans; the sales tax is one of the least fair.

The sales tax imposes a larger burden on low-income families than on higher-income families, since it is based on how much each family spends. Low-income families typically spend three-quarters of their income on things subject to the sales tax, middle-class families spend less than half of their income on items subject to sales tax, and the richest families spend one-quarter or even less of their income of sales-taxable items. The unfairness of the sales tax is somewhat reduced by the exemptions for groceries, residential utilities (gas, electric, and water), and prescription and over-the-counter medicines. Taxing business and professional services that are primarily used by higher-income families, but are currently not taxed, could also reduce the regressivity of the sales tax.

The school property tax comes closer to taking the same percentage of income from families and every income level. This may be because the percentage of family income spent on housing is relatively constant for most income levels. In addition, taxes on business property are frequently borne by business owners, who tend to have higher incomes. The \$15,000 homestead exemption and over-65 tax freeze reduce school property taxes, particularly for lower-income homeowners.

WHO WINS IF THE SALES TAX RATE WERE INCREASED TO FUND PROPERTY TAX CUTS?

Any increase in the rate of the regressive sales tax in order to generate new revenue to replace less regressive school property taxes will be a tax increase for 80% of Texas families, and a tax cut only for those families with the highest income - those earning more than \$96,493.

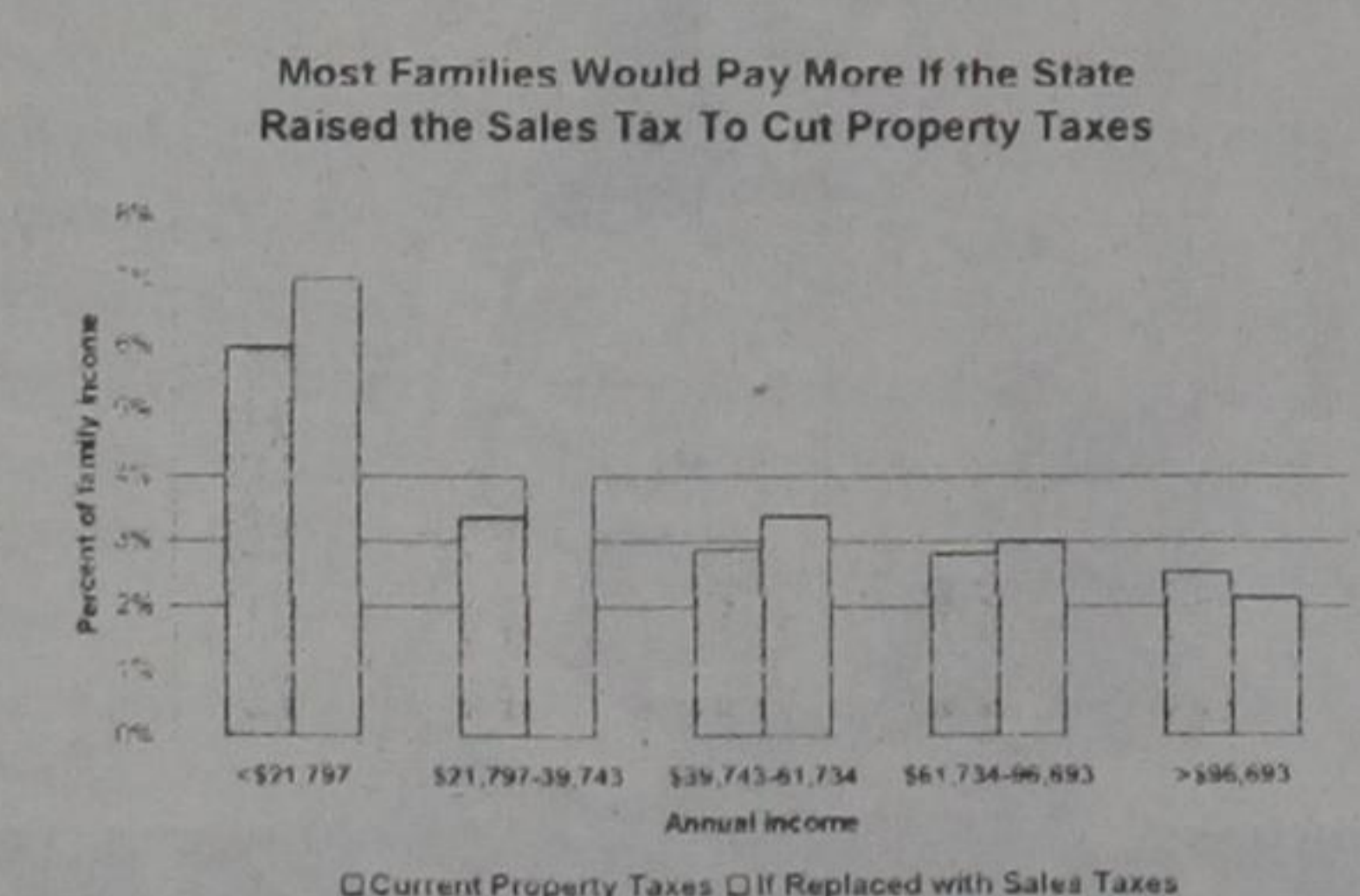
Page pairs these groups into five equal income categories to make it easy to view. Each income group contains one-fifth (20%) of all Texas households - 1.65 million households.

Even taxes that are initially paid only by businesses, such as the corporate franchise tax or the natural gas tax, are eventually paid by families. The final cost of the tax can be shifted onto workers through lower wages and onto consumers through higher prices, as well as onto shareholders through lower profits. The comptroller calculates both the initial distribution of tax by industry and the final distribution of tax by household income.

It is also important to note that all households pay property taxes. Homeowners pay their property taxes directly, while renters pay property taxes indirectly. Their landlords initially pay the taxes on the property, then pass the cost of the taxes on to their tenants through higher rents. The degree to which these taxes can be passed on varies with the local rental market.

WHICH TAX IS THE FAIREST?

Another way to judge the fairness of a tax is the Suits Index, which mathematically compares the percentage of taxes paid and the percentage of total income received for each taxpayer. If each family paid the same percentage of its income in tax, the Suits Index for that tax would be zero. If the tax is regressive, then the Suits Index is less than zero. All major Texas taxes have an index lower than zero; each is to some extent regressive.



This chart shows the percentage of family income paid in property taxes currently (the left-hand bar in each pair) and the percentage that would have to be paid to raise same amount of money statewide exclusively from sales taxes (the right-hand bar) in order to demonstrate the resulting shift in tax incidence. The average family in all four lower- and middle-income brackets would pay more in sales taxes than they would gain in lower property taxes, if sales taxes were raised to pay for property cuts.

The new temporary federal deduction for sales taxes may make a higher sales tax rate look more appealing. However, in order to benefit from a sales-tax deduction, a family has to itemize its deductions on its federal income tax return. Most Texas taxpayers do not have enough deductible expenses to make it worth itemizing their deductions. Instead, the majority of taxpayers take the standard deduction.

In 2002, the most recent year that detailed data are available from the Internal Revenue Service, only 23.8% of Texas taxpayers itemized deductions on their federal income tax returns. Moreover, the benefit of itemization is concentrated among the highest income taxpayers. For more on the sales tax deduction, see <http://www.cppp.org/products/PP215.html>.

The comptroller's study, Tax Exemptions and Tax Incidence, can be found at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/incidence05/>

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SPANGLISH: Lost in Translation

Cristina Moreno (Shelbie Bruce), has written an essay, looking to be accepted in Princeton, on the edifying story of her mother, Flor (Paz Vega), a young Mexican woman who was abandoned by her partner and who decided to emigrate to Los Angeles,

California. Finding herself in the middle of two failed jobs and her daughter's upbringing, Flor sets on a new job with the Claskys, formed by the renowned chef John (Adam Sandler), his neurotic wife Deborah (Téa Leoni) and her mother Evelyn (Cloris Leachman), an al-

coholic ex-jazz singer, as well as the kids Georgie and Bernice.

Flor does not speak any English at all, making language one of the obstacles that eventually become a quite eye-opening experience for both parties.

On the one hand, there is the dysfunctional marriage of an obsessive and unsatisfied woman like Deborah and the ultra-sensitive and comprehensive John. Inverse dynamics: he is the recipient of all the frustrations of a restless woman who faces professional and, probably, family failure.

continued on page 6

Camino al Corazón Recetas

Viene de la pagina 3
Recetas

Almejas con salsa de vino y hierbas

- Ingredientes
- 1 cucharada de mantequilla
- 2 cebollas escalonas medianas, finamente picadas
- 1 1/2 taza de vino blanco
- 1 pizza de hojuelas de chile rojo, picante
- 16 almejas frescas, con el caparazón firmemente cerrado
- 1 cucharadita de tarragón fresco, finamente picado
- 1 cucharada de perejil italiano fresco, finamente picado.

Preparación
En una olla mediana derrita media cucharada de mantequilla y cocine hasta que haga burbujas. Añada la cebolla escalona y cocine hasta que esté transparente.

Añada el vino blanco y deje que hierva; luego agregue las hojuelas de chile picante y las almejas. Cocine hasta que las almejas comiencen a abrirse, por aproximadamente cinco minutos.

Agregue el tarragón y el perejil italiano; cocine hasta que las almejas se abran completamente, por aproximadamente cinco minutos más. Añada la mantequilla restante y deje que se derrita sobre las almejas.

Sirva las almejas con el caldo que suelta la cocción y acompañe con rodajas de pan francés ligeramente tostado.

Rinde para dos porciones.

*Las almejas son ricas en fósforo y calcio, ingredientes que juntos funcionan como un energético que levanta la libido.

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La Maquina Musical

The Hispanic Population is a Market Fertile for the NBA

Miami, U.S., February 3, 2005 (Notimex) - The Hispanic population of the United States is one of the most fertile markets for the National Basketball Association (NBA).

According to a NBA research presented in Miami, the league has increased its fan base in the Hispanic market more than 65%

With a population calculated in 38 million, the Hispanics of the United States represent the ethnic group of greater growth in the country, with a spending power calculated in about 500 billion dollars annually.

With those premises in mind, Arturo Nuñez, NBA Vice President

and Managing Director of Latin America, exposed the interest of the association in that market, to which it has begun to penetrate.

Basketball, with 76%, is the most popular sport among Hispanic teenagers, more than soccer (46%), baseball (46%) and football (55%), according to research done by the NBA.

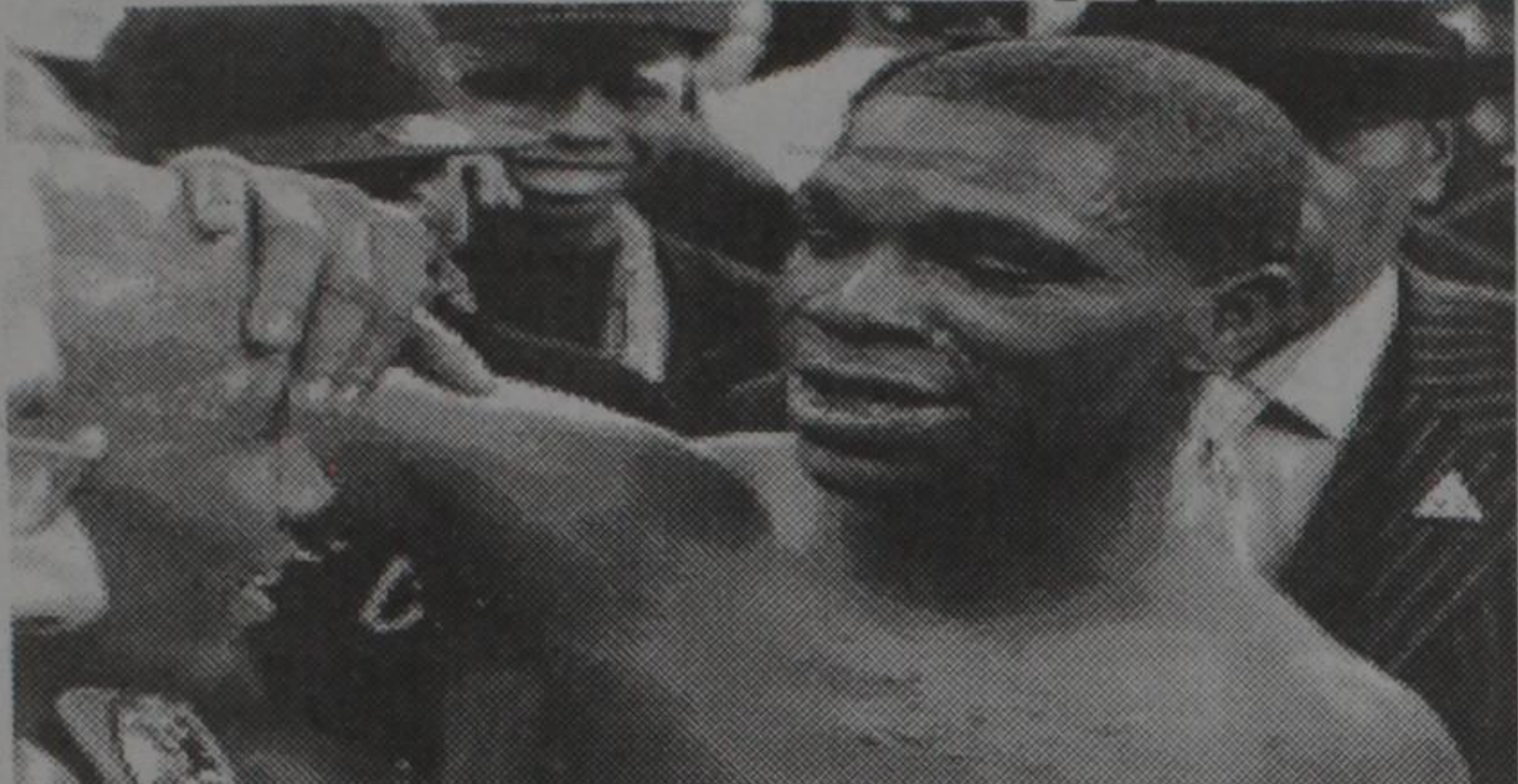
As result of the progress and globalization of the sport, Nuñez expressed his confidence in which the NBA continues to attract a great number of talents of countries and Latin American origins.

In 1997 the NBA only had two Latino players and this year started with 14 players of that region, plus two Spaniards.



Johnathan Torres 18, a senior at Estacado High School has accepted a scholarship to play baseball at the New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs. He signed the National Letter of Intent on Friday, January 21. Johnathan is an honor student and a four year member of the EHS Varsity Baseball Team. His parents are Johnny and Liz Torres & sister Tiffany Torres.

Judah Wants to Savor Welterweight Title



There appears to be no rush to schedule a third bout between Zab Judah and Cory Spinks.

Judah wants to savor his ninth-round technical knockout Saturday night that made him the undisputed welterweight champion.

Spinks wants to contemplate what went wrong in what had been envisioned as a triumphant homecoming.

"This is a big dream for me," Judah said. "When the match was made, I dropped to my knees and

said 'thank you.' Spinks' trainer and manager, Kevin Cunningham, said Sunday his fighter picked the wrong time for a flat performance.

"Sometimes the fighter walks up those steps and he's on his game, and sometimes he doesn't have his stuff," Cunningham said. "I've never seen him mentally not focused, but Cory didn't have his stuff."

Judah acknowledged the risk Spinks assumed in granting him the second fight in St. Louis. Promoters noted the sold-out crowd of more than 20,000 for the city's first major bout in more than 40 years and said a third fight conceivably could be in St. Louis.

Judah said Spinks made a big mistake fighting in his hometown, and added he wouldn't repeat the error by choosing New York.

"It was a stupid move," said Judah, who is from Brooklyn. "But he had a lot of heart, so you've got to give it to him."

Cunningham disagreed. "What champion doesn't want to fight at home?" he said.

But he conceded it was difficult to block the distractions. Spinks got the star treatment -- St. Louis rapper Nelly walked him to the ring and his father, former heavyweight champion Leon Spinks, accompanied him before the prefight instructions.

"I just think Cory got too emotional being at home," Cunningham said. "He just got caught up in 22,000 people coming out and everybody showing him love."

Wherever it's held, the third fight would be a much bigger payday for Judah. He received about \$100,000 for Saturday's fight, plus a \$50,000 cash bonus handed over by promoter Don King at the postfight news conference. Spinks earned more than \$1 million.

The Best News Is Right Here EL EDITOR

Judgements: Recognizing the Super Bowl's Bests, Worsts

The Super Bowl is over, and now so are the parades. But before Deion Branch tells us he's going to Disney World, let's take this chance to recap a game that was memorable not so much for what happened on the field as for what happened afterward.

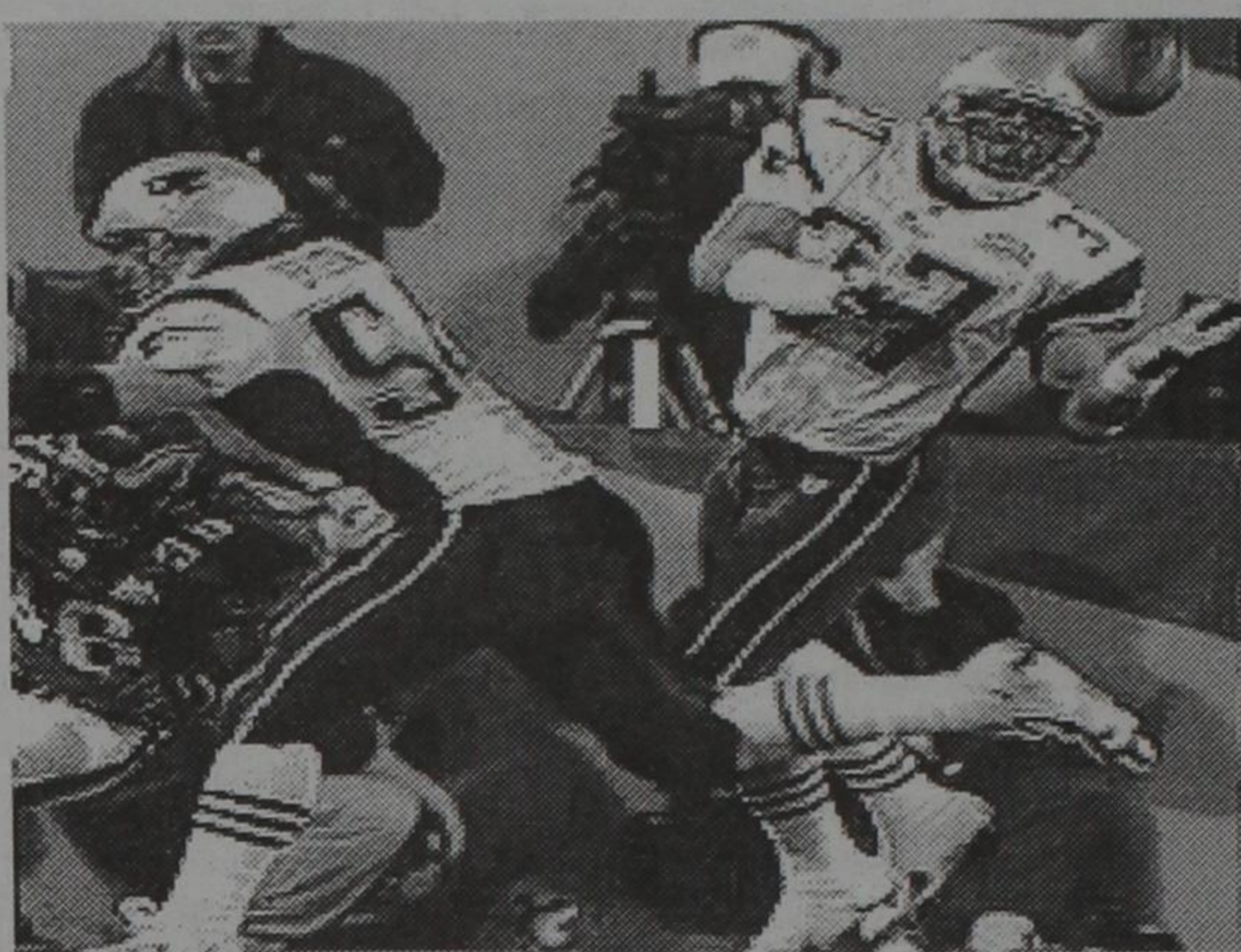
Rodney Harrison's first of two interceptions helped turn the Super Bowl around. The Patriots were handed their third Lombardi Trophy in four years, only the second time in the game's history that occurred.

"Dynasty" screamed a banner headline on Page 1 of Monday's Florida Times-Union, and who are we to argue? What New England accomplished in the salary-cap era is marvelous, remarkable and historic. And, yes, it qualifies as a Herculean achievement worthy of the Times-Union's streamer.

That's why it's time we recognize what just happened before we start referring to Cleveland's Romeo Crennel or Notre Dame's Charlie Weis. That can wait. This cannot:

Most valuable player
New England safety Rodney Harrison. He had two interceptions. He had a sack. He batted down two passes. He made seven tackles. What more can a guy do? Oh, yeah, he held together a secondary that played the second half with two rookies. The only mistake Harrison committed was when he said that "everyone pretty much wrote us off and didn't give us a chance. Everyone picked Philly to win this game." If I'm a Patriots fan I'm glad he's overseeing my secondary and not counting votes in the next election.

Least valuable player



Philadelphia defensive end Jevon Kearse. Playing right end for the second straight game, Kearse was a non-factor, failing to sack Tom Brady and failing to cover Mike Vrabel when he caught a short touchdown pass. Pssst, Jevon, holding on to a guy's jersey is illegal. Credit New England left tackle Matt Light for taking the Eagles' star pass rusher out of the game. There's a reason the Eagles paid Kearse a \$16 million signing bonus, and it wasn't to produce two tackles.

Play of the game
The first quarter was scoreless until Philadelphia was set up first-and-10 at the New England 19 late in the period. Then, things should have changed -- only they didn't because Harrison produced another of those critical plays. He stepped in front of Eagles back Brian Westbrook to intercept a badly thrown pass at the 4, killing a sure scoring drive. OK, let's just say Harrison doesn't make the pick, and the Eagles don't move from the 19. Then what? Well, then they would have kicked a field goal, and why is that significant? They

lost by three.

Coach of the game

All those who want to join the Bill Belichick Sunday Worship, the line forms to the right. The guy produced another defensive wrinkle for this game, employing two defensive linemen and a gaggle of linebackers, and it worked so well he held Donovan McNabb to no yards rushing and forced him into three costly interceptions. He didn't throw that many interceptions in one game this season, but that's how it goes when you play New England. The Patriots suck you into their game, then devour you. Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger didn't have three interceptions in any game this year, either -- heck, he hadn't even lost in his pro career -- until facing New England. It's time to bow down to Belichick, who is 10-1 in the playoffs. That record not only beats Vince Lombardi's, his string of three Super Bowl wins in four years beats everyone. Sure, Dallas did it, but the Cowboys got there with two head coaches. Bill Walsh didn't make it. Neither did Chuck Noll. Or Joe Gibbs. Or Tom Landry. Or Lombardi.

La Inmigracion

viene de la primera pagina

Bush propuso, como se esperaba, la privatización del sistema nacional del Seguro Social, lo que permitiría que los trabajadores más jóvenes pudieran invertir una parte de su fondo de retiro en cuentas privadas.

"El sistema tiene serios problemas que empeorarán con el tiempo", indicó.

Bob Menéndez (demócrata por Nueva Jersey), presidente del Caucus Demócrata en la Cámara de Representantes, considera que la privatización es un golpe enorme para todos los envejecientes.

"Esto afectará, de manera desproporcionada, a los envejecientes latinos porque más del 33% de ellos caerá bajo el nivel de pobreza como resultado del esquema de privatización", alega.

López, del CHC, advierte que, antes de llegar a conclusiones, se deben realizar más estudios sobre

la reforma al Seguro Social. "La tasa de rentabilidad para los hispanos, como grupo demográfico, es significativamente más baja que la tasa para los blancos", sostiene. "Cualquier cosa que permita que las personas tengan una seguridad económica, de la cual el gobierno no pueda disponer y que puedan pasar a sus hijos se convertirá en un bien para todos los estadounidenses".

Con el propósito de lograr apoyo para su plan para enmendar el Seguro Social, Bush inició una gira este mes por diferentes estados de la nación.

(Sonia Meléndez es editora del Hispanic Link Weekly Report, en Washington, D.C. Comuníquese con ella por correo electrónico a:

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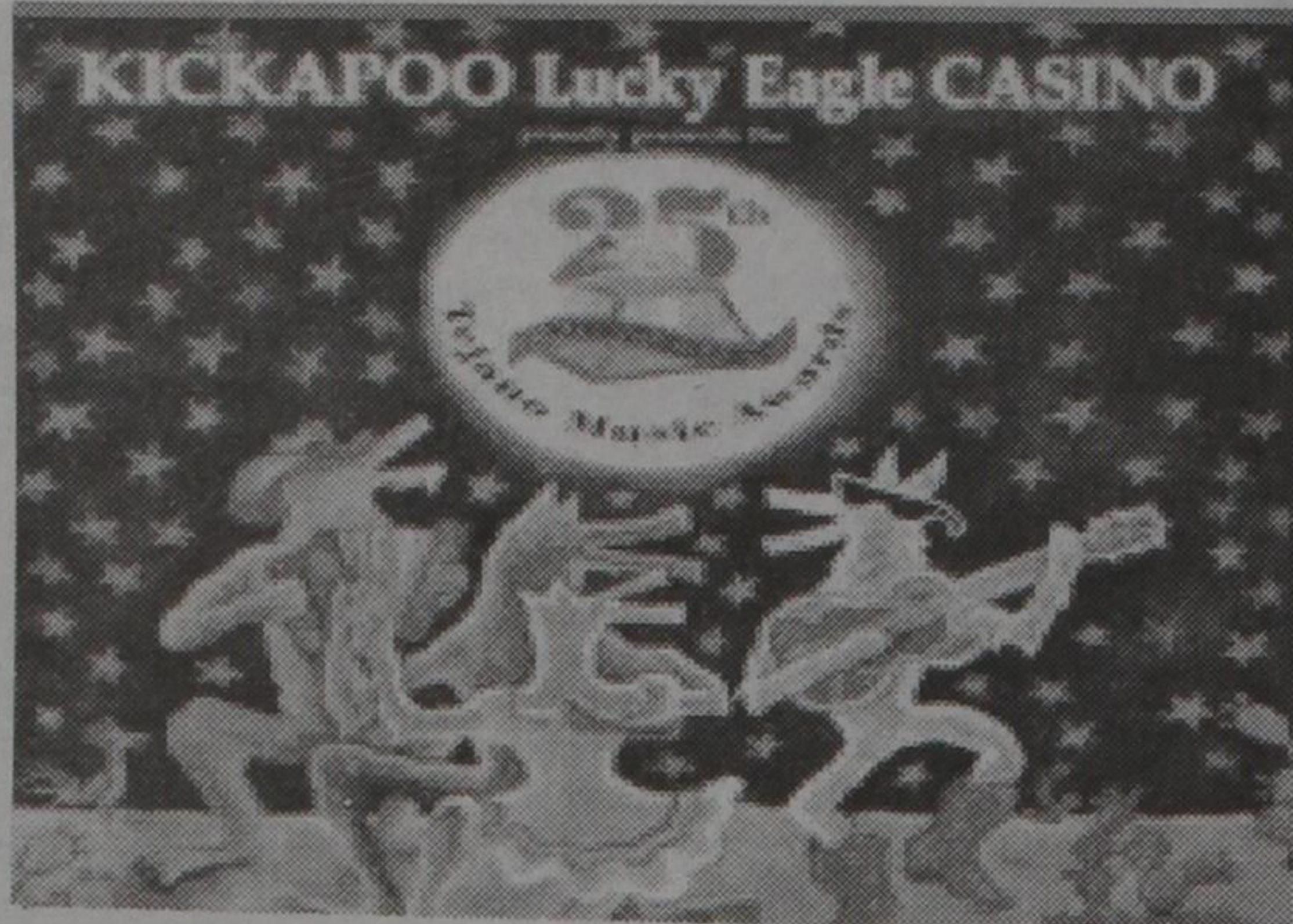
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24th Annual Tejano Music Awards Show Highlights Unveiled

Texas Talent Musicians Association (TTMA) founders and producers of the annual Tejano Music Awards, formally unveiled details for the upcoming and exciting Silver Anniversary 25th Awards show and schedule of events. The details were unveiled at a Press Conference held recently at the Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino in Eagle Pass, Texas. The Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino is the new Presenting Sponsor for the Tejano Music Awards.

The annual Awards show will be held Saturday, March 19, 2005 in Eagle Pass, Texas, at the newly built Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino and will again recognize and honor Tejano music artists for their achievements over the past year. The Awards Show is expected to draw over 5,000 fans of Tejano music with musical performances by Grammy Award Winner, Jimmy Gonzalez y Mazz, Grammy Award Nominees, Jay Perez, Ram Herrera, Stephanie Montiel and Grupo Vida along with other Tejano music headliners such as Elida Reyna, Gary Hobbs, Shelly Lares, Marcos Orozco, K1 (formerly Kumbia Kings), Los Desperadoz and others to be confirmed. The evening will also feature a special presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Awards to the two founders of the Tejano Music Awards, Mr. Rudy Trevino and Mr. Gilbert "Gibby" Escobedo, along with a special tribute to Selena Quintanilla Perez.

In addition to the Awards Show event highlights, the official poster for this year's event was also unveiled. The commemorative poster was designed by award winning, advertising Creative Director, David Orona, currently Vice President of Creative Services at PBS Business and Marketing Solutions in San Antonio, Texas.



"The 2005 Tejano Music Awards is certainly going to be one of the most exciting and elegant shows ever as it will serve to celebrate the legacy and history of Tejano music," stated Mr. Robert Arellano, Chairman of TTMA. "Our fans are already gearing up for this milestone event with hundreds of them coming from all over the United States to support our artists, and the Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino's Entertainment Complex is perfect for the Awards Show."

Tejano music is widely known for its, deeply rooted, infusion of spiced mixtures of Mexican Conjunto, German Polka and Texas rockabilly sounds. The music genre continues to maintain a loyal and multi-generation fan following that spans from the mid-west, California, and throughout the Southwest. According to Mr. Brando Mireles, Entertainment Director for the Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino, "We are very proud and honored to have the Tejano Music Awards in our new Casino because Tejano Music is part of our own cultural heritage. Tejano music continues to be a Texas tradition

and we want to do what we can to support the Tejano Music Awards Show as it is the only forum by which Tejano music artists are truly recognized."

Additional Tejano Music Awards events are slated throughout the entire week leading up to the actual Awards Show in Eagle Pass. They include the free outdoor music fest known as the Tejano Music Awards Fanfare to be held in San Antonio the previous weekend, March 11-13, 2005 at Market Square in downtown San Antonio. The event draws over 75,000 in attendance with special Tejano Artist Auto-graph Booths on Friday, March 11, 2005 and continuous performances by over 85 bands on five different stages.

Other scheduled events include the Tejano Music Industry Awards to be held Thursday, March 17, 2005 at the Civic Center, in Del Rio, Texas. The Awards honor individual musicians, songwriters, Rising Female, Rising Male and Rising Group with voting done by peers. Performances by Tejano artists are also slated in between the various award presentations.



The Search for the next Latin Music Super Star comes to Telemundo with "Nuevas Voces de America"

At a news conference held today in Los Angeles, Telemundo announced the launch of one of Spanish-language television's most awaited shows: "Nuevas Voces de America" ("New Voices of America"). Produced by Latin music mogul Emilio Estefan, this exciting reality show has been designed to identify the next Latin superstar and will debut as a weekly show on Telemundo Sunday, February 13, at 8 p.m. (7/c).

After running a national search with thousands of auditions held in Los Angeles, New York, Miami, Puerto Rico, San Antonio, as well as accepting mailed-in applications, 20 finalists have been selected to participate in the new reality program. Finalists will have the opportunity to be trained by Emilio Estefan, the renowned producer who has helped launch the careers of many Latin mega stars like Thalia, Ricky Martin, Shakira, Marc Anthony and Gloria Estefan. Emilio Estefan will be assisted by

a team of experts in various areas of training.

"Nuevas Voces de America" will be hosted by 2003 Miss Universe Amelia Vega, who will be the face of the show. Co-hosting with Amelia will be Spanish TV personality Poncho de Anda, who will share detailed information about the participants with the audience. Judges include Mexican rock star Alejandra Guzman, Emilio Regucira, lead singer of rock band "Los Rabanes," and David Naranjo, a marketing and media executive who has worked on the careers of such known artists as Gloria Estefan, Marc Anthony, Julio Iglesias and Alejandro Fernandez. Joining them will be several other high-profile celebrities who will be appearing as guest judges.

The contestants will live in Miami Beach and will undergo intense weekly trainings led by Emilio Estefan, including health and fitness, makeovers, choreog-

raphy, on-camera expertise, beauty and fashion, and singing lessons. This training is designed to transform every contestant into real stars. In addition, Estefan will create original tunes, taking into consideration individual voice ranges, to be interpreted by each finalist over the course of the show.

The judges will evaluate each participant's onstage work and their weekly progress. Each Sunday, two of the finalists will be threatened for elimination. TV viewers will have the last say; via telephone or text messages, every week they will vote to determine who will stay in the competition and have the opportunity to become the new Latin voice of America.

The final winner of "Nuevas Voces de America" will receive a grand prize that includes a \$250,000 contract with a record company.

Lost In Translation

continued from page 4

On the other hand, there is the struggle of a single mother to raise her daughter in a hostile and alien environment, constantly tried by this typical American family who is willing to take after the interests of a teen girl named Cristina.

"Spanglish", the fifth work of James L. Brooks ("As Good As It Gets" 2002) is a sensitive and fresh way of bringing the eternal cultural shock to the big screen. Re-inventing pink comedy, as

he did with his former film, and profiting from the subtle register Paul Thomas Anderson had already discovered in Adam Sandler in the film "Punch Drunk Love" (2002), Brooks faces him with the idealized tenderness of a submissive Paz Vega, who is trying of shake off the skin of her controversial character from "Lucia y el Sexo" (Medem, 2001).

Nevertheless, the real highlight of the film must be Tea Leoni's work, a New York actress who

takes a chance at opening a stereotype that just won't fit into the image of the contemporary American woman, supposedly liberated and eager to run their homes just like they run any given company.

Leoni, who flirts with overacting, imprints a scenic power to her character that intimidates Paz Vega's impersonation whenever they share a scene, easily showing both an arrogant and a pathetic facade.

The box office flop of "Spanglish" comes as no surprise. Despite keeping a politically correct line, it does single out the arrogance of Americans who love to disdain anything that looks and sounds different from them when it dares to become something more than a picturesque portrait. Such could be translated into a current anti-patriotic attitude.

The fact of showing a Mexican woman proud of her family and culture who refuses to act the way people do in the country where she washes dishes and who rejects forced-integrating charity have something to do with subversion, above all when not fitting in Cinderella's shoes.

This ideological challenge brought up by a well structured script could not take for granted an audience who despises on-screen ridicule, above all by an idealized culture that is so underestimated as the Mexican is.

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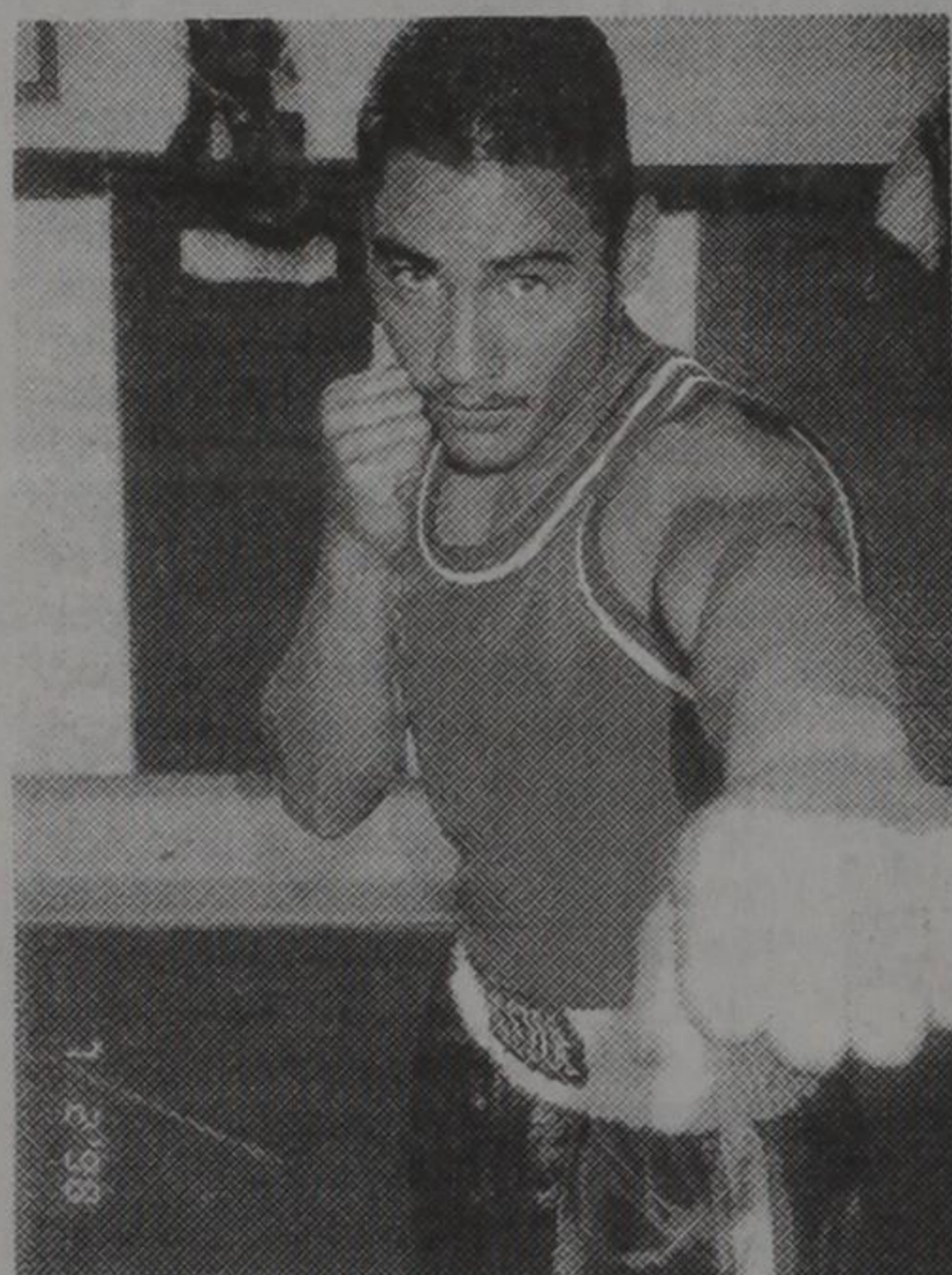
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The Best News Is Right Here EL EDITOR



Jeremy Prez, Bantamweight, Joseph Rosendo Jr., and Kayla Combs, women's Batamweight will be three of many Warriors that will be participating in the 2005 Lubbock Regional Golden Gloves Boxing Championships that will take place at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center on February 25 and 26. Tickets are available from Select a Seat.

El Editor
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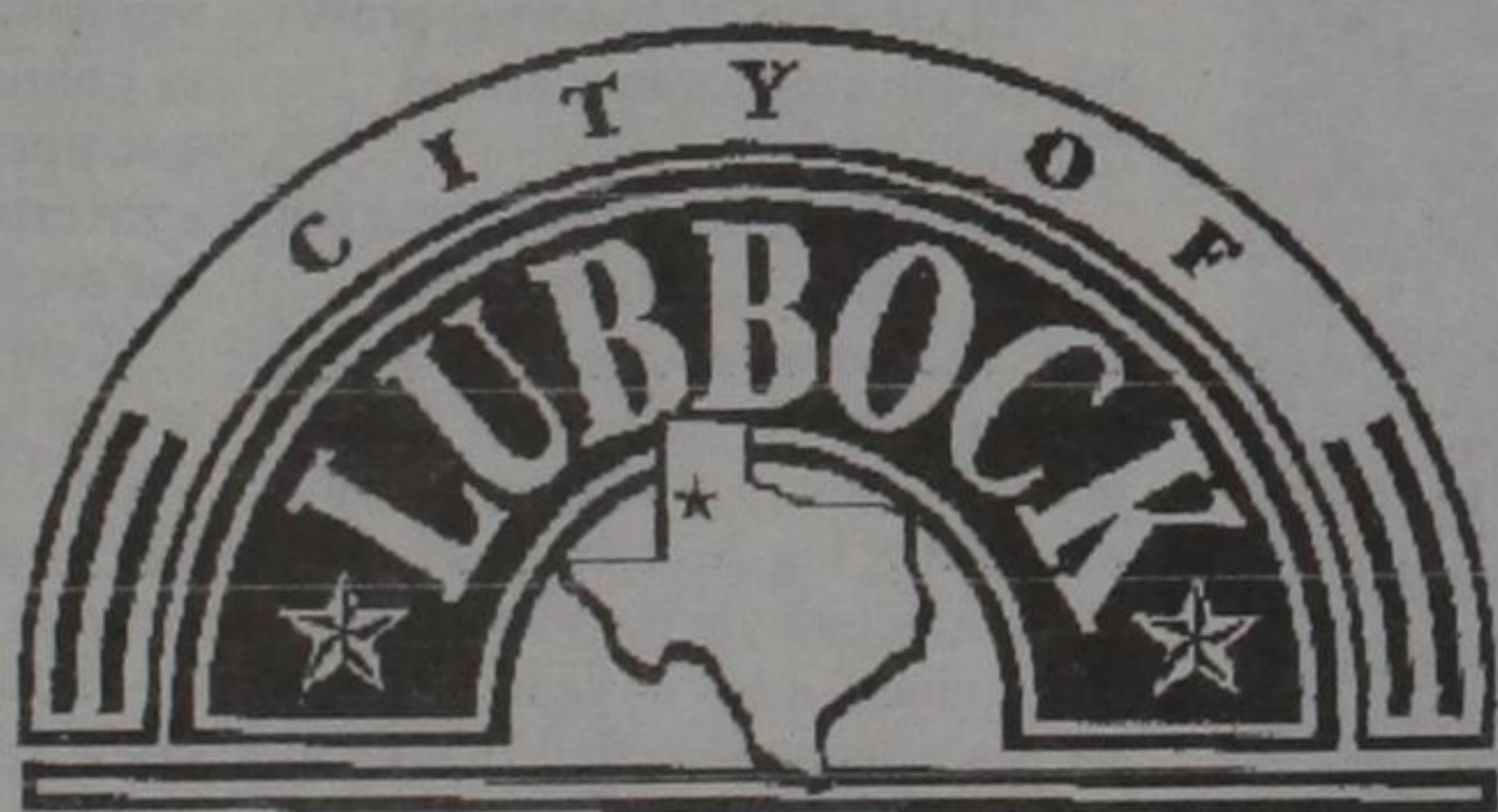
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